(vi) Minimal National Standards for control of pollution from various sources have been laid down by the Central Pollution Control Board for implementation through the concerned State Pollution Control Boards.

(vii) Effluent standards have been notified for 71 different categories of industries.

(viii) Water quality at 507 monitoring stations carried out by State Pollution Control Board have been reviewed and data used for executing programmes on abatement of pollution in rivers and lakes.

(ix) The Ganga Action Plan and National River Conservation Plan have been launched on the basis of survey of water quality and river basin surveys conducted by CPCB and SPCBs.

(x) For ground water protection, the Central Ground Water Authority has been set up.

(xi) For coastal water, with the support of Ocean Development, a national programme has been taken along with concerned SPCBs.

(xii) Central/Pollution Control Board (CPCB) directed the State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution control committees for identification of grossly polluting industries discharging their effluents directly into the rivers and for taking action against those which have not provided the requisite Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs).

(xiii) Financial assistance is provided for installation of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) in cluster of small-scale industries.

Poaching of Wildlife

1366. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister while addressing the 21st meeting of the Indian Board for Wildlife at New Delhi in January, 2002, expressed concern over the poaching of tigers and leopards during the last few years;

(b) if so, the total number of tigers and leopards poached and killed due to unnatural circumstances, during the last five years;

(c) whether poaching of such animals is posing threat to the wildlife in the country; and

(d) if so, the concrete plans formulated to check poaching of such animals?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Reported number of tigers and leopards poached from 1998—2001 is 133 and 377 respectively.

(c) Poaching is considered to be a major threat to many species of wild animals.

(d) The steps taken to prevent poaching of wild animals are as follows:—

(1) *Action taken at the State level:*

(i) Legal protection has been provided to tigers and other wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(ii) State level and District level coordination committees have been set up in several States to prevent poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(2) *Action taken at National level*

(i) During the IXth Five Year Plan, the Government has increased the Project Tiger reserves to 27 from existing 24. The total area under the Project Tiger have been increased from 35069 Sq. Kms. to 37761 Sq. Kms.

(ii) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders. Anti-poaching efforts are being coordinated with INTERPOL.

(iii) Financial and technical help is being extended to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, *viz.* Project Tiger, Project Elephant, Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries and Eco-development around Protected Areas for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals. Financial assistance is, in particular, being provided for raising 'Strike Forces' and providing arms to the protection staff for combating the organised poachers. Assistance is also provided for giving rewards to the informers for eliciting information about poachers and smugglers.

(iv) Officers from the Central Government regularly visit and inspect various National Parks & Sanctuaries in the country to assess the quality, quantity and functionality of the weapons, vehicles, wireless sets and other essential equipment available to the field staff.

(v) To check alienation of the local communities due to wildlife depredation, the Central Government gives compensation to the extent of Rs. 1 lakh to the kith and kin of the persons killed by the wild animals.

(vi) A Special Coordination and Enforcement Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Secretary, Environment & Forests, Government of India, for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(vii) Export of wild animals and their derivatives is prohibited under EXIM policy.

(viii) A National Conference of Forests and Environment Ministers of State Government was held on 29th and 30th January, 2001. It was resolved to organise existing protection staff into viable formations for effective control of poaching and to create enforcement infrastructure both within and out side protected areas.

(ix) Ministry of Home Affairs has written to all the State Governments to lend a helping hand to the field formations to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(x) A meeting of Tiger Enforcement Task Force of CITES was organized during April, 2001 in Delhi to work out a strategy for controlling illegal trade in tiger parts and products.

(3) *Action taken at International level.*

(i) Government of India seeks international co-operation under the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) for control of illegal trade in wildlife items.

(ii) To control transboundary trade a protocol has been signed with Peoples' Republic of China and a MoU has been signed with His Majesty's Government of Nepal.

(iii) A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to Tiger Conservation.

Disposal of hazardous waste oil

1367. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court has fined Government for negligent approach in disposal of hazardous waste oil from major ports imported in the guise of lubricants;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action taken to recover the dues from the officials, negligent incomplying, with court orders?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (c) As per the Supreme Court's orders, the Ministry was required to (i) submit a report on the waste oil consignments seized at Jawahar Lal Nehru Port, Nhava Sheva, Mumbai, (ii) conduct an inquiry regarding the disappearance of wastes from the port, and (iii) file an affidavit regarding action taken on the Action-Plan contained in the report of the High Powered Committee (HPC). The Ministry has complied with the directions by way of filing an affidavit on 26.09.2001 based on the report of analysis of oil samples collected from the seized containers at Jawahar Lal Nehru Port, Nhava Sheva, Mumbai, carried out by the Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun and setting up an Inquiry Committee on 31.01.2002 to probe into the disappearance of wastes from the ports. A detailed supplementary affidavit was filed on 06.12.2001 incorporating the responses of various States in respect of recommendations of the HPC. There has been no delay on the part of the Ministry in complying with the orders of the Supreme Court.

Based on the above facts, an application has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking condonation of the fine of Rs. 10000 imposed *vide* Supreme Court's order dated 04.02.2002.

Environment Projects in Assam

1368. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount sanctioned and released by Government to Assam, for development and promotion of environment projects during the last three years;